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Rates of Entertainments and Sales Taxes.

* 121 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the receipts from the Entertainments Tax, Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation and the General Sales Tax (yearwar) since the enactment of the respective Acts;

(*b*) the rates of these taxes and whether there have been changes;

(*c*) whether the rates of Sales Tax has been altered in respect of any commodities or articles and, if so, what they are and what the rates have been;

(d) the amounts of compensation given to local bodies from the proceeds of the taxes on entertainments and sales of motor spirit (yearwar);

(*e*) the income of local bodies from tolls before its abolition;

(*f*) whether local bodies have claimed a portion of the proceeds from the Sales Tax also and if so, what the decision of Government in the matter is;

(*g*) whether it is proposed to re-enact the Sale of Cloth Act in some other form;

(*h*) whether the licence fees charged for licensing dealers in cloth bears any relation to the proceeds under the Sale of Cloth Act; and

(*i*) whether the system of licensing dealers of all commodities is under consideration?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (*a*) *to* (*i*) The information asked for by the hon. Member is laid on the table of the House. [a] "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" From the statement placed on the table of the House, it is seen that the local boards are not given anything out of the proceeds of the motor spirit taxes. Prior to 1920–21, district boards and municipalities were in receipt of large sums of money on account of tolls. I wish to know how they can maintain their roads if they are not given any portion of the motor spirit taxes."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It was never the intention to give anything to the local boards from the amounts realized on account of motor spirit taxation. But toll compensation is being paid to them out of the 105 lakhs and odd which is recovered under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act."

Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras.

* 122 *Q*.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of manuscript and printed books in the Madras Government Oriental Manuscripts Library;

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 513–514 infra.

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(b) whether catalogues of manuscripts have been published for each of the languages and if so, what the number of catalogues is according to language;

(c) what the staff engaged in the preparation of the catalogues is and whether it is adequate to complete the work within a reasonable period of time;

(d) whether the library is being utilized for consultation and if so, what the average number of users is;

(e) whether the staff employed is adequate to cope with the inquiries received;

(f) whether any charges are levied for supplying transcripts to scholars and institutions and if so, what they are and what the income has been during last year;

(g) what the number of the staff is with the qualifications and emoluments prescribed for each post;

(h) whether sanskrit qualification is not insisted upon for the Curator's post;

(i) whether the library has been located in a rented building and whether the accommodation provided is adequate;

(j) whether there are proposals before the Government to convert the library into a Research Institute;

(k) whether the members of the staff are required to go out on tour to collect rare manuscripts and acquire them for the library;

(l) whether adequate arrangements have been made to preserve the manuscripts in their original form or otherwise and whether rare works are being published and made available to the public as in the case of records in the Madras Record Office; and

(m) whether the Government have under consideration the whole question of the future of the Oriental Manuscripts Library with a view not only to promote the purpose for which it has been established but also make it more useful to the general public?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

"(a) There are 48,708 manuscripts and 9,251 printed books in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras.

" (b) Yes.

" The number of catalogues, published is: Sanskrit—55; Tamil—15; Telugu—16; Kannada—5; Malayalam—2; Arabic, Persian and Urdu—4.

" (c) There is no special staff solely for the purpose of cataloguing. A staff of one Librarian, two Assistant Librarians and eleven Pandits under the Curator; attend to the work of the preparation of catalogues, in addition to their normal duties. The sanctioning of additional staff to complete the work of cataloguing in a reasonable time is under consideration.

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" (*d*) Yes. It is consulted locally by visitors and by non-residence users through correspondence and loan of manuscripts. For the period from 1st April to 30th November 1946 the monthly average of users is 258.

" (*e*) Yes.

" (*f*) Charges are levied for supplying transcripts to scholars and institutions at the following rates :—

Sanskrit, Kannada and Malayalam.	Rs. 10 for copying 1,000 granthas. (A grantha is equal to 32 syllables.)
Telugu and Tamil ..	Rs. 9 for copying 1,000 granthas.
Urdu and Persian ..	Rs. 10 for copying 10,000 letters.
Arabic	Rs. 10 for copying 45,000 letters.

Besides, there are comparing charges at the following rates —Charges for comparing 1,000 granthas in Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam and 60,000 letters in Urdu and Persian and 45,000 letters in Arabic are Rs. 2–12–0.

" The income received was about Rs. 939.

" (*g*) The number of the staff, with the qualifications and emoluments prescribed is as follows :—

Designation.	Number.	Qualifications.	Scale of pay.
			RS.
Curator	1	First or second class M.A. or B.A. (Hons.) of any British or Indian University in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Arabic or Persian with a working knowledge of Sanskrit.	200—30/2—260—40/2—500—50/2—700.
Librarian ..	1	B.A. (Hons.) or B.Sc. (Hons.) or M.A. or M.Sc. of a University in the Province and must possess a sufficient knowledge of Sanskrit and of at least one of the languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Below 30 years of age. Account Test for Subordinate Officers—Part 1.	100—10/2—150.
Assistant Librarian (one temporary).	2	Do.	70—5/2—85—7½/2—100.
Clerk	1	S.S.L.C.	30—3/2—45—2/2—55.
Do. (Temporary)	1	Do.	30 per mensem (fixed).
Typist (Temporary).	1	S.S.L.C. with qualification in typing.	30—3/2—45—2/2—55.
Senior Pandit (one for Tamil).	1	Oriental Title of one of the Universities in the Province.	45—5/2—60.

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Designation.	Number.	Qualifications.	Scale of pay. RS.
Pandits (1 temporary), 3 for Sanskrit, 1 for Tamil, 1 for Telugu, 1 for Kannada, and 1 for Arabic, Persian and Urdu. (One of the Sanskrit Pandits efficient in Malayalam for Malayalam).	9	Oriental Title in concerned language of one of the Universities in the Province.	35—4/2—43—2/2—45.
Marathi Pandit (Temporary).	1	Proficiency in Marathi with sufficient knowledge of English and ability to read and write Marathi manuscript recorded in Nagari and Modi script. Preference to Oriental Title holders of graduates.	75 per mensem (fixed).
Attender	1	III Form	19 to 30.
Peons	3	.. .. ..	12 to 18.
Dusting coolies for dusting manuscripts and books.	2	.. .. ..	12 paid from contingencies.

"(*h*) Sanskrit qualification is not insisted upon for the Curator's post, but a candidate who knows to read and write Sanskrit is given preference for appointment to the post.

"(*i*) The Library is not located in a rented building. At present it is housed in a portion of the University buildings on the western side. The accommodation provided for it is not considered adequate.

"(*j*) No.

"(*k*) On receiving information regarding the availability of rare manuscripts in any particular place, a member of the staff qualified to examine them is deputed with or without the Curator to acquire them for the Library.

"(*l*) Yes.

"(*m*) An advisory committee has recently been constituted and it will be asked to go into the question of making the library more useful to the general public and submit their recommendations."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Before the question is answered by the Hon. Minister, I wish to submit that I never intended this to be put as a starred question as I was aware long answer is involved. But by some mistake, it has been starred. I would only request the Minister to furnish me with a copy of the answer now and it might go into the proceedings."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" The question has appeared on the agenda. Though the answer may be long . . ."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" I am prepared to read out any portion of the answer which hon. Members may be interested to hear."

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know who the Curator is?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I do not know."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact that a Muslim gentleman by name Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib, M.A., L.T., is the Curator? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I take the information from the hon. Member."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact that he is highly qualified in Sanskrit? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " I do not know, Sir."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will it be possible to have it printed and circulated one of these days the Council is sitting so that we may put supplementary questions on it? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— " A copy of the answer is with the Council Secretariat and it might be circulated by them as usual."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If hon. Members want it to be printed and it might be arranged."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The answer to this question is also sufficiently long. If you want, I will read it."

Functions of the Publicity department.

* 123 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Information be pleased to state—

(*a*) the functions of the Publicity department;

(*b*) the publications issued by the department;

(*c*) whether all Press Notes and communiqués of Government are issued by this department;

(*d*) the staff employed and proposed to be employed at Madras and in the mufassal;

(*e*) the nature of work entrusted to officers of the Publicity department in the mufassal;

(*f*) whether the mufassal staff will work under the control and supervision of Collectors;

(*g*) whether *Madras Information* is issued only in English or in regional languages as well;

(*h*) whether it is proposed to issue a Hindi edition of *Madras Information* and if so, of what region is Hindi the spoken or written language;

(*i*) the expenditure incurred on the publication of *Madras Information* and the number of copies printed (languagewar); and

(*j*) where English and language editions including Hindi edition are published?